

House Education & the Workforce Committee

John Boehner, Chairman

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FACT SHEET

FY 2004 Appropriations

*Keeping Education among the Highest Priorities,
Even in a Time of Economic Uncertainty and Fiscal Restraint*

On June 25th the U.S. House Appropriations Committee approved the FY2004 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriation bill, as well as the FY2004 Agriculture and FY2004 Interior Appropriation bills.

LABOR, HHS, AND EDUCATION

The Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education spending bill ensures that education remains among the nation's highest priorities. Education programs that improve the lives of students across the nation received significant increases, demonstrating unwavering continued federal support for education. Following is a brief summary of the measure approved by the House Appropriations Committee, and what it means for education and the workforce in America.

- ✓ **Overall funding for the Department of Education is increased by \$2.3 billion.** The \$55.4 billion in total discretionary funding for federal education is an all-time high. Under President Bush, in just three years the Education Department's overall funding will have increased by \$13.2 billion.
- ✓ **Title I aid to needy and disadvantaged students is increased to \$12.35 billion.** The \$666 million increase in FY2004 would be the third significant increase in Title I funding as a result of the No Child Left Behind Act. In FY2003, Title I funding was increased by \$1.3 billion, which was on top of the \$1.6 billion increase provided in FY 2002. This increase means Title I spending will have increased more during the first three years of President George W. Bush's Administration than it did during the previous seven years combined under President Clinton.
- ✓ **Special Education grants (IDEA) are increased by \$1 billion for FY2004, as requested by President Bush.** The \$9.9 billion funding level builds on two previous significant increases in funding under President Bush, totaling \$2.5 billion. The FY2004 funding for IDEA is three times higher than in 1995, the final fiscal year of the Democrat-controlled Congress. (See page 3 for more information on IDEA funding)
- ✓ **Reading First and Early Reading First grants to states are increased to \$1.15 billion to ensure that children can read by the time they reach the third grade.** Under No Child Left Behind, federal funding has more than tripled for reading programs based on proven reading instruction methods rooted in scientifically-based research.
- ✓ **Teacher Quality Grants are level funded at \$2.93 billion.** The bill also provides \$49.4 million for Transition to Teaching and \$150 million for Math and Science Partnerships, an increase of nearly \$50 million over FY2003.
- ✓ **Charter School funding is increased by a total of \$71.5 million.** The bill provides \$220 million for start-up and planning grants for charter schools and \$75 million for charter school facility financing.

- ✓ **Federal funding to help states develop and implement state assessments is increased to \$390 million.** With the FY2004 increase, states will have received over \$1.16 billion to develop and implement state assessments in math and reading, as required by NCLB. The FY2004 funding level means that in just three years states will have already received 72% of the total collective funding needed by FY2008 to develop and implement the basic tests, according to the General Accounting Office.
- ✓ **Pell Grants maintain their historically high maximum award of \$4,050 to help disadvantaged students achieve the dream of a college education.** In addition, overall funding is increased by \$885 million, bringing total funding to \$12.3 billion. This means that more families will be served, and more students will have a college education within reach.
- ✓ **After School Centers are funded at \$1 billion.** This represents a \$400 million increase over President Bush's request and a \$6.5 million increase over last year.
- ✓ **Impact Aid is increased by \$50 million over last year.** The \$1.238 billion in Impact Aid funding is \$223 million above President Bush's request.
- ✓ **Head Start funding to help prepare disadvantaged young children to learn and succeed in school is boosted by \$148 million.** The FY2004 increase will bring total Head Start funding to \$6.8 billion, providing significant resources to ensure that we are closing the readiness gap between Head Start graduates and their more affluent peers.
- ✓ **Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is increased by \$111 million over last year.** The \$1.8 billion in overall funding will help low-income families pay for air conditioning in the hot summer months and heating during the winter.
- ✓ **Worker Training and Dislocated Worker Assistance are level funded.** The bill provides \$4.962 billion for core job training and employment assistance and \$1.461 billion for Dislocated Worker Assistance.
- ✓ **Job Corps is increased by \$28 million over last year.** The bill provides a total of \$1.541 billion in Job Corps funding.
- ✓ **Overall funding for the Department of Labor is reduced slightly by \$165.9 million over last year.** However, the \$11.7 billion in total discretionary funding for the Department is \$60.1 million more than President Bush requested.

AGRICULTURE

- ✓ **Child Nutrition Programs (Mandatory) are funded at President Bush's request of \$11.418 billion.** This represents an increase of \$838 million over last year.
- ✓ **Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) is funded at \$4.588 billion.** This \$107.7 million reduction below last year is based on new information from the USDA showing declining participation and lower food costs than originally estimated.

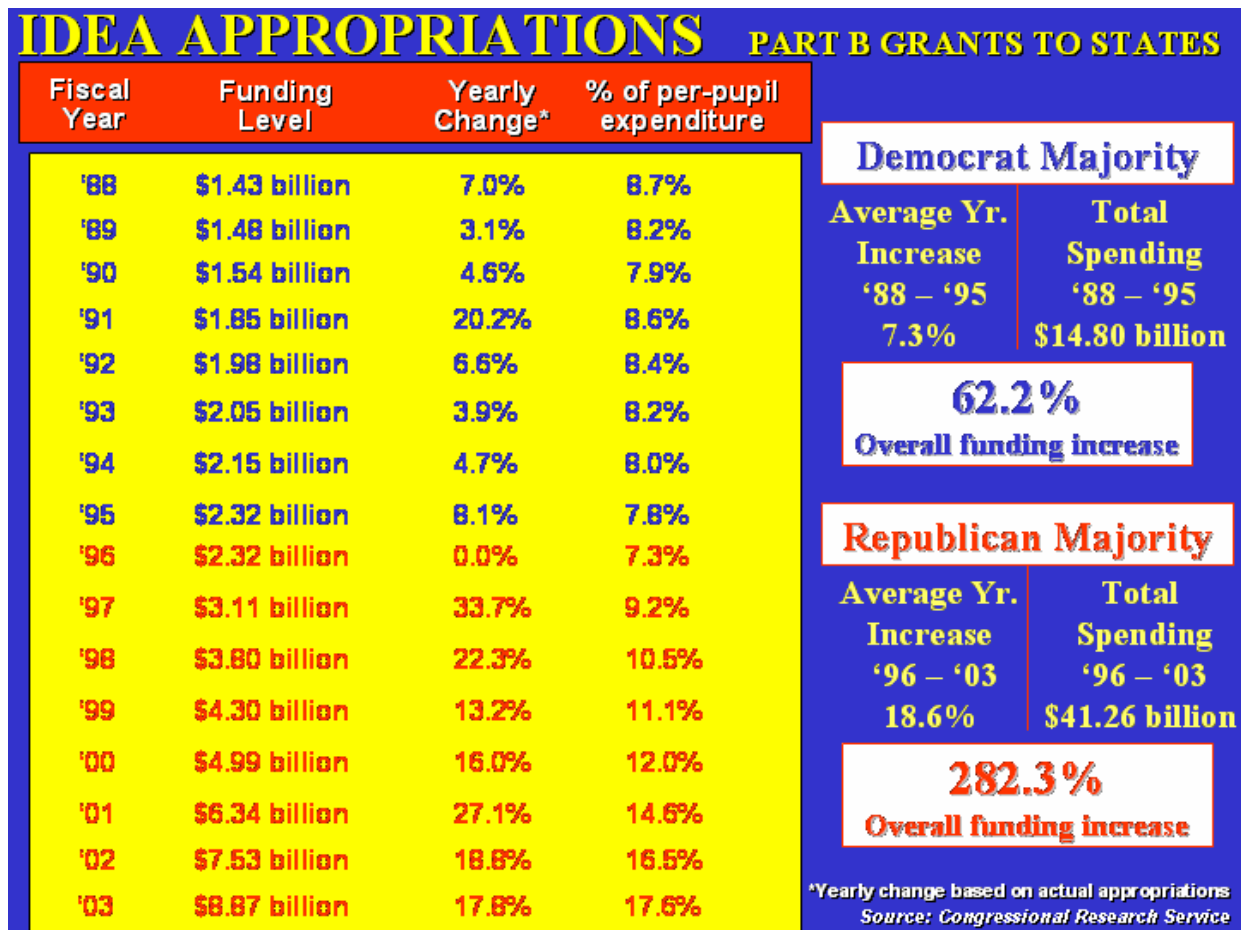
INTERIOR

- ✓ **The National Endowment for the Arts is level funded and the National Endowment for the Humanities receives a \$10 million increase for the Bush Administration's new American history initiative.** The bill provides \$117 million for NEA and \$137 million for NEH.

SHINING THE SPOTLIGHT ON IDEA FUNDING

On April 30th the House approved H.R. 1350, the Improving Education Results for Children with Disabilities Act, legislation that will offer new hope and opportunities to children with special needs. The bill authorized for FY2004 an increase in Part B grants to states of \$2.2 billion – an increase that matched the number assumed in the House-Senate budget agreement. As outlined above, the spending bill approved by the House Appropriations Committee increases IDEA state grants by \$1 billion – a laudable increase that will help millions of students in special education, but not the \$2.2 billion increase authorized by the bill.

While many have expressed concern that special education will never reach “full funding” at this pace, a simple review of special education funding increases in the past few years makes clear that the Republican commitment to funding special education cannot be questioned. Since 1996, the first year Republicans controlled the House, funding for special education has increased by nearly 300%. The \$1 billion increase will continue the positive trend shown on this chart, bringing the overall funding increase since the GOP took control of Congress to 325%, and bringing **total spending from FY1996 to FY2004 to more than \$51 billion.**



It is clear that in a time of tight budgets, fiscal restraint, and competing priorities, providing resources and reforms for children with special needs continues to be at the top of the list for Congressional Republicans.